



TOWN OF MANSFIELD
OFFICE OF THE YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU

Patricia Michalak, MA
Youth Service Bureau Coordinator

DRAFT
YSB Advisory Minutes
January 13th, 2015
12:00 noon @ Mansfield Town Hall
Conf. Rm. B

Board Members

Present:

Ethel Mantzaris, Chair
Patricia Michalak, YSB Coordinator
Kate Bohannon, YSB Social Worker
Makayla Lamson, E.O Smith Student Representative
Larry Barlow, MMS Assistant Principal
Pat Schneider, Director of Human Services
Eileen Griffin, LCSW
Chuck Leavens, E O Smith Counselor
Sara Anderson, Early Childhood Coordinator
Lauren Rodriguez, Southeast Principal

I. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 12:00 PM by Ethel Mantzaris.

II. Approval of minutes

- 12/9/14

III. Reports

- Director's Report – Patricia Schneider
 - Pat is working at pulling together this year's department budget. The Early Childhood grants at are risk of being eliminated from the funds and Uconn has informed three non-profit early care centers, that they currently provide funding to, that they will be decreasing their funding.
- Coordinator's Report – Patricia Michalak
 - **Legislative Breakfast:** YSB participated in a regional legislative breakfast to promote support of Youth Services. Staff worked with an eighth-grade young woman to provide a testimonial during the breakfast, which was very well received.
 - **My Brother's Keeper:** YSB staff reached out to and met with Pastor Joe Nollet of My Brother's Keeper. His goal is to create a place in Mansfield

for residents to receive free food, clothing, and household items. Staff will be meeting with Pastor Nollet again to facilitate coordination and support each other in our work to help families.

- **Regional Toy Drive:** Staff worked with Tolland Human Services with the organization and distribution of donations collected by State Troopers.
- **Women in Transition:** This is a clinical and educational group for women with children who are facing multiple challenges. We met before the holiday to talk about upcoming challenges and stressors that come along with this time of year.
- **Grief & Grandparents Group:** These continue to be important and well-attended support groups for families especially during the holiday season.
- **Holiday Program:** YSB assisted with the large quantity of food donated to the department good pantry. We also provided a high school student the opportunity to assist with the organization of donated goods.
- **Senior Center Activities:** YSB staff assisted Senior Center staff with a pizza luncheon and their annual New Year's Eve "Countdown to Noon" celebration.
- **Southeast Mitten Tree:** Southeast once again generously collected hats, mittens, scarves, and coats. YSB staff will be distributing them throughout the winter.
- **YSB Team Building:** The four Youth Services staff members participated in a team building session to promote integration of our work from birth through teen years.
- **Training:** Sara Anderson attended a Policy Academy in Hartford put on by the Family Economic Success Coalition and the CT Association for Human Services (CAHS)
- **School Readiness:** Identified someone to act as the School Readiness Site Monitor
- **MAC:** Entered into a Professional Services Agreement with an Accountability Manager.
- **Playground:** Early Childhood staff sent out holiday mailing for the playground project in mid-December. As of January 2, \$3947 had been raised. The playground committee continues to raise funds and the total raised to date is approximately \$375,000. Staff continues to participate in the process of the playground site design work with Kent and Frost.

IV. Old Business:

- None

V. New Business:

- **Winter Adventure Program:** The program is off to a great start, working in collaboration with the middle school and Parks and Recreation. This is the first joint offering from Youth Services and Parks and Recreation.
- **Playground Update:** The project has gained much more public support after the mailing of the project letter, including many \$10 donations from town residence. Within the upcoming weeks the location of the playground should be determined.
- **Lauren Rodriguez:** Southeast principal introduced herself to the Advisory Board and appreciated learning more about Youth Services. She reported that Youth Services and Southeast staff work well together, adding extra support for children and families.

VI. Other:

- None

VII. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 12:40. February 10th, 2015 is the next meeting.